

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the National Wild Turkey Federation upon its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those exemplary organizations that promote and protect the long-honored outdoor traditions of our nation; and

WHEREAS, one such commendable organization is the National Wild Turkey Federation, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary of providing ceaseless support to science-based wildlife management, research, and habitat conservation; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc., was incorporated on March 28, 1973, in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, over the course of fifty years, the National Wild Turkey Federation, its chapters, and millions of members across the nation have worked with state, federal, and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage, participating in one of the greatest conservation success stories in American history—the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members have been at the vanguard of reversing declining hunting participation through nationwide investment in hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation efforts, and partnering with states to develop opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in the outdoors tradition; since 2012, the organization has recruited and reactivated more than 1.5 million hunters; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation and its chapters and members have invested more than half a billion dollars to conserve or enhance more than 22 million acres of critical wildlife habitat, forests, and grasslands across public and private lands since 1985, while

also providing more than \$8.5 million in research throughout North America to ensure healthy wild turkey populations into the future; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation is the largest and longest-serving nongovernmental stewardship partner of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, conserving habitat on National Forest System lands for over forty years and heavily engaging in the development and implementation of the USDA's Wildfire Crisis Strategy; and

WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation works across land-ownership boundaries to increase clean and abundant water, healthy forests and wildlife habitat, resilient communities, and robust recreational opportunities across the country, and for this work, the organization should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation and salute the organization and its chapters and members for their tireless and selfless work to further scientific, state-led wildlife management and the conservation of America's wild turkey and its habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.